

DATE

Stephanie Robin
104 Octavia Dr
Scott, LA 70583

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2016-692

Dear Ms. Robin:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its August 19, 2016 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion regarding whether you, as the Assistant Principal for Live Oak Elementary (Live Oak), may accept compensation for notarizing documents for parents/guardians in the Lafayette Parish School System (System) or staff members employed at Live Oak. You stated that you are a notary public and would perform such services outside of your regular work hours. You explained that parents/guardians are required to have notarized affidavits of residence in order to register their children for school, if they are unable to provide another form of proof of residence. Additionally, parents often seek notarized temporary mandates when they leave their child in the care of another adult.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit you from accepting compensation for notarizing documents for parents/guardians of any child that attends, or will attend, Live Oak or staff members employed at Live Oak. However, the Code would not prohibit you from accepting compensation for notarizing documents for parents/guardians of a child that attends any other school in the System or staff members employed at any other school in the System, provided such notarial services are performed outside of your regular work hours and away from Live Oak. La. R.S. 42:1113A prohibits a public servant, or legal entity in which he has a controlling interest from bidding on or entering into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of his agency. La. R.S. 42:1111C(2)(d) prohibits a public servant or legal entity in which she exercises control or owns an interest in excess of 25% from receiving any thing of economic value for services performed for or compensated by any person that has substantial economic interest which may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the public servant's official duty. Since you are employed as the Assistant Principal of Live Oak, it would present a violation of the Code if you accept compensation for notarizing documents for parents/guardians of any child that attends, or will attend, Live Oak or staff members employed at Live Oak. However, it would not

present a violation of the Code if you accept compensation for notarizing documents for parents/guardians of a child that attends any other school in the System or staff members employed at any other school in the System, provided such notarial services are performed outside of your regular work hours and away from Live Oak.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Vivian Haley Williams
For the Board

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THIS IS NOT AN OPINION OF THE BOARD OF
ETHICS